



Supreme Court climate ruling could impact nuclear waste case

By MATTHEW DALY

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court's landmark ruling on climate change could have implications for a range of other issues, including a case involving nuclear waste storage and a proposal requiring companies to disclose how climate risk affects their businesses, advocates across the political spectrum say. Two Republican attorneys general — including the West Virginia official who successfully challenged Environmental Protection Agency rules restricting greenhouse gas emissions by power plants — say the Supreme Court ruling applies more broadly to other executive branch actions. And in at least one case, environmental groups appear to agree.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton says the court's June 30 ruling, which limited how the nation's main anti-air pollution law can be used to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, can be used to block a federal license issued to a private



The Supreme Court is seen on Capitol Hill in Washington, July 14, 2022.

Associated Press

facility to store radioactive waste in his state. West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey, fresh

off a win in the climate case, says he will challenge a proposal by the Securities and Exchange Commission

to require companies to report on their climate risks, including those related to the physical impact of

storms, drought and higher temperatures caused by global warming.

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The court's 6-3 ruling said EPA violated the "major questions" doctrine in regulating greenhouse gas emissions by power plants. The decision held that Congress must speak with specificity when it wants to give an agency authority to regulate on an issue of major national significance.

Several conservative justices have criticized what they see as the unchecked power of federal agencies. Some legal experts suggested the Supreme Court ruling also might be cited in challenges to President Joe Biden's announcement last week that the administration would provide \$10,000 in student debt cancellation for millions of Americans — and up to \$10,000 more for those with the greatest financial need.

Jay Duffy, an attorney for the environmental group Clean Air Task Force, said the ruling in *West Virginia v. EPA* shows the Supreme Court will look skeptically at a variety of executive branch actions. The court's conservative majority "set an exceptionally high bar" for agencies to meet, Duffy said, making it harder for government agencies to enact significant rules without triggering the major questions doctrine.

That's problematic, Duffy wrote in a blog post, "because Congress generally writes laws in broad terms such that they can be adapted to changing problems and solutions by the technical experts working at agencies to address public health, safety and the environment."

In the Texas case, Paxton



Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton speaks to the media, Jan. 27, 2022, in Weslaco., Texas.

Associated Press

contended in a court filing soon after the high court ruling that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission lacked specific direction from Congress when it licensed a private company to temporarily store spent, radioactive waste in west Texas near the border with New Mexico.

The ruling in *West Virginia v. EPA* "confirms that this case implicates the major questions doctrine," Paxton's office said in a letter to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which is hearing the state's challenge in the nuclear case.

In a political twist, environmental groups that oppose the waste-storage plan also invoked the *West Virginia* case.

"No federal agency is above the law," said Diane Curran, a lawyer for Beyond Nuclear, an advocacy group that opposes

nuclear power.

The group argues in a separate case before the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals that a license issued to Texas-based Interim Storage Partners to store thousands of metric tons of spent nuclear fuel for up to 40 years is invalid because "it ignored the unambiguous mandates of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act" to store nuclear waste at a now-abandoned site at Nevada's Yucca Mountain. "Only Congress can decide whether to abandon one of its primary strategies for ensuring the completion of a federal repository" for nuclear waste, Curran said. Like Paxton and Morrissey, Curran said federal agencies appear to be going beyond their authority delegated by Congress.

"I do think there are policy issues here that are enormous," she said in an inter-

view. "It's disturbing that the NRC put its oar in on a policy decision that belongs to Congress," namely, where to store nuclear waste.

Wallace Taylor, a lawyer who represents the Sierra Club on nuclear issues, said he appreciates the irony that environmental groups are siding with staunch conservatives such as Paxton and Morrissey in the nuclear dispute.

"My enemy is my friend" when interests coincide, he said with a chuckle.

"It's certainly a major question," Taylor added, referring to nuclear waste storage. "Tens of thousands of tons of nuclear waste" must be disposed of "and there's no authority in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act to license interim storage," he said. "All they can license is a permanent repository" at Yucca Mountain, a project that has been mothballed

for more than a decade and faces strong bipartisan opposition.

The NRC, in a legal filing in the 5th Circuit case, said the Texas license is not an example of overreach because the agency has "longstanding" authority on the issue, including in the 1954 Atomic Energy Act.

"The materials license issued here reflects a conventional exercise of NRC's longstanding and exclusive authority over a matter that lies at the core of its expertise," the agency wrote.

Congress has "clearly and expressly" granted authority to the NRC to license off-site nuclear fuel storage facilities, including in the 1954 law, the agency added.

An NRC spokesman declined to comment, referring a reporter to the legal filing.

In formal comments filed with the SEC, meanwhile, 21 Republican attorneys general led by Morrissey argue that the agency is trying to transform itself from the federal overseer of securities "into the regulator of broader social ills," including climate change.

"The woke left is going full throttle in their mission to change every facet of American life, businesses and erode our democratic institutions to suit their liberal agenda," Morrissey said. "The Biden administration wants to radically transform the SEC and other agencies run by unelected bureaucrats and make them champions of climate change, regardless of what those agencies' functions are." Biden, he added, "is creating a federal bureaucracy to suit his agenda." □



Pages from the affidavit by the FBI in support of obtaining a search warrant for former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate are photographed Friday, Aug. 26, 2022.

Associated Press

U.S.: Review of possibly privileged Trump papers already over

By ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department has completed its review of potentially privileged documents seized from former President Donald Trump's Florida estate this month and has identified "a limited set of materials that potentially contain attorney-client privileged informa-

tion," according to a court filing Monday.

The filing from the department follows a judge's weekend order indicating that she was inclined to grant the Trump legal team's request for a special master who would oversee the review of documents taken during the Aug. 8 search of the Mar-a-Lago estate and ensure that any

that might be protected by claims of legal privilege be set aside.

In revealing that the department had completed its review of potentially privileged communications, law enforcement officials appeared to be suggesting that the appointment of a third-party special master might now be moot. □



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Low fuel inventories cause special concern in U.S. Northeast

By **DAVID SHARP** Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Diesel and heating oil supplies in the Northeast are more than 50% below the recent average, raising concerns that an extreme weather event could cause supply disruptions, federal officials said.

Fuel supplies are lower than normal across the country for a variety of reasons, including the war in Ukraine. But it's the worst in the Northeast.

Diesel fuel and heating oil, which comprise the distillate category, are 63% below the five-year average in New England and 58% below the same average from Maryland to New York, according to a survey by the Department of Energy. Gasoline inventories are not as bad, but are still at their lowest levels in nearly a decade along the entire East Coast, the agency said.

The Northeast is heavily dependent on heating oil to keep homes warm in the winter, while other regions rely more on natural gas and electricity. Also, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has projected an active hurricane season, and a powerful weather event could cause disruptions, since most fuel consumed from the Middle Atlantic states to Maine comes from Gulf Coast refineries, energy officials say.

Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm is convening a meeting of New England governors and their energy directors after Labor Day to



Drivers for an oil delivery company fill their trucks at the Sprague terminal, on Jan. 16, 2014, in South Portland, Maine.

Associated Press

discuss the situation. In the meantime, she has urged governors in a letter to take whatever steps they can to shore up fuel supplies in coming weeks to prevent any problems.

The Energy Department also sent letters to seven major oil companies, asking them to hold onto their stocks to help offset low stocks.

The federal agency has been monitoring the problem and is attempting to be proactive with outreach. But there's little incentive for buyers to stock up on high-priced fuel for storage because it is anticipated that prices will drop,

said Michael Ferrante, of the Massachusetts Energy Marketers Association.

The fuel inventory concerns come against a backdrop of Russia's invasion of Ukraine further shaking up an energy supply chain that was seeking to catch up with growing demand. The war is causing worries about the adequacy of

energy supplies around the world.

In New England, the immediate concern in the late summer is diesel fuel, but the winter heating season looms not far behind.

Heating oil disruptions would hit the region hard because the percentage of homes that rely on it range from 24% in Massa-

chusetts to more than 60% in Maine, the most heavily dependent states.

Maine Gov. Janet Mills, a Democrat, has urged the Energy Department to expedite its meeting with governors to talk about maintaining a stable heating oil supply.

Maine is "distinctly vulnerable to the increased prices and volatility the global fossil fuel market is now experiencing due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine," said Anthony Ronzio, a spokesperson for the Mills administration.

Despite the concern, wholesale suppliers and retailers are working well together, and Ferrante said he anticipates inventories will increase in September and October, easing the immediate concerns.

He said he is optimistic that there will be an ample supply of heating oil.

"Suppliers and retail delivery companies are concerned about prices and inventory, but there's not any alarm bell being rung at this time," he said. "I don't see a crisis at this point."

The Energy Department created a heating oil reserve that holds 1 million barrels in terminals in the Northeast. Those could be tapped in an emergency.

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Lawyers awarded \$70M+ fees in deadly Florida condo collapse

By **CURT ANDERSON**
Associated Press

Lawyers who secured a \$1.1 billion settlement in the deadly collapse last year of a beachfront Florida condominium building were awarded more than \$70 million in fees Monday by a judge.

The total was less than the approximately \$100 million attorneys with the 17 law firms had requested, but there were no guarantees initially they would ever be paid in the days after the Champlain Towers South building fell June 24, 2021, killing 98 people.

Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Michael Hanzman said surviving family members and people who only lost units and property got far more in compensation than is typical in such large class-action cases — and this lawsuit was settled in only a year's time.

"That is a remarkable result. It is unprecedented," Hanzman said at a hearing. "They are not getting a meager recovery here. They are in essence being made whole, which never happens in these cases." Hanzman also remarked that the case "could have been an absolute disaster."



A giant tarp, bottom, covers a section of rubble where search and rescue personnel have been working at the Champlain Towers South condo building in Surfside, Fla., on July 4, 2021.

Associated Press

"It had so much potential to go off the rails," the judge said.

"If things had not turned out well, they (attorneys) would have walked away with nothing."

Still, the judge said the full \$100 million in legal fees requested was too much. He noted not only that lawyers were not promised a dime initially when they took the Champlain Towers case

but also that their swift settlement meant a reduction in the hours involved.

Some survivors also questioned the higher amount as too generous given the scope of the tragedy, even as they acknowledged the extraordinary outcome.

"No one should be profiting from the death of 98 humans," said Marin Langerfeld, who lost his sister and her husband in the col-

lapse.

"This is the most difficult thing that has happened to our family's lives," added Kevin Spiegel, whose wife Judith died. "We will always carry this around."

The settlement money comes from 37 sources, including insurance companies, engineering firms and a luxury condominium building whose recent construction next door is

suspected of contributing to structural damage of Champlain Towers South. None of the parties admit any wrongdoing.

A billionaire developer from Dubai purchased the 1.8-acre (1-hectare) beachside site for \$120 million, contributing to the settlement. It's not clear yet what structure will rise on the site. Hearings before Hanzman and a second judge on the wrongful-death claims have taken place over the past five weeks. Michael Goldberg, the court-appointed receiver overseeing the case, said checks should be distributed to those families who lost loved ones beginning in mid-September. Those who lost only property will receive the full assessed value for their units, with taxes and other costs forgiven.

One of the plaintiffs' lead lawyers, Harley Tropin, said the \$100 million was the absolute ceiling for attorney fees and that the group was satisfied with whatever was awarded.

"It was an honor to be chosen to try to get a result on behalf of these victims. There's no victory lap here," Tropin said. "The victims come first. We're good." □

Man suspected of killing 3 'terrorized' Detroit, chief says



Detroit Police and investigators look over a shooting scene on Pennington Drive, north of Seven Mile Road, Sunday, Aug. 28, 2022, in Detroit.

Associated Press

By **ED WHITE and JOEY CAPPELLETTI**

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — A 19-year-old man suspected of randomly killing three people on Detroit streets over roughly two hours may

have been emboldened when he didn't encounter police after the first shooting, the mayor said Monday.

The victims included a single mother of five children who was waiting for a bus

Sunday. Lari Brisco was planning to move this week to a suburb closer to her job as a medical assistant at an allergy clinic.

"You never expect gun violence to hit close to home. You always hear about shootings, but it's never someone you know until it is," said her boss, Dr. Kathleen Dass.

Police still were sorting out details while a suspect who may have a mental illness remained in custody. The man was peacefully arrested at home after a 12-hour search Sunday, following a tip from someone close to him.

He "terrorized our community," Chief James White said.

Mayor Mike Duggan said no one called 911 when the first victim, a 28-year-

old man, was shot before dawn, less than two miles from a police station.

"At 4:45 on a Sunday morning, not a lot of people are up. Some people might have thought they were hearing firecrackers," Duggan said. "I think there's a strong probability he expected to get caught. ... And then 35 minutes later he shoots and kills a second individual and proceeds from there."

The first incident occurred at 4:45 a.m. The suspect shot a man without provocation, walked away and then returned to fire more shots, White said.

About 30 minutes later and three blocks away, police got their first 911 call for a woman in her 40s shot on a sidewalk. Brisco, 43, was the third victim, shot multi-

ple times while waiting for a bus a short distance away. Dass said her clinic had planned to give Brisco a cake to celebrate her move to a new home.

"My patients loved her because she treated them all like they were her family," the doctor said.

A fourth shooting occurred at 7:10 a.m. while an 80-year-old man was walking his dog, said Michael McGinnis, major crimes commander. He survived.

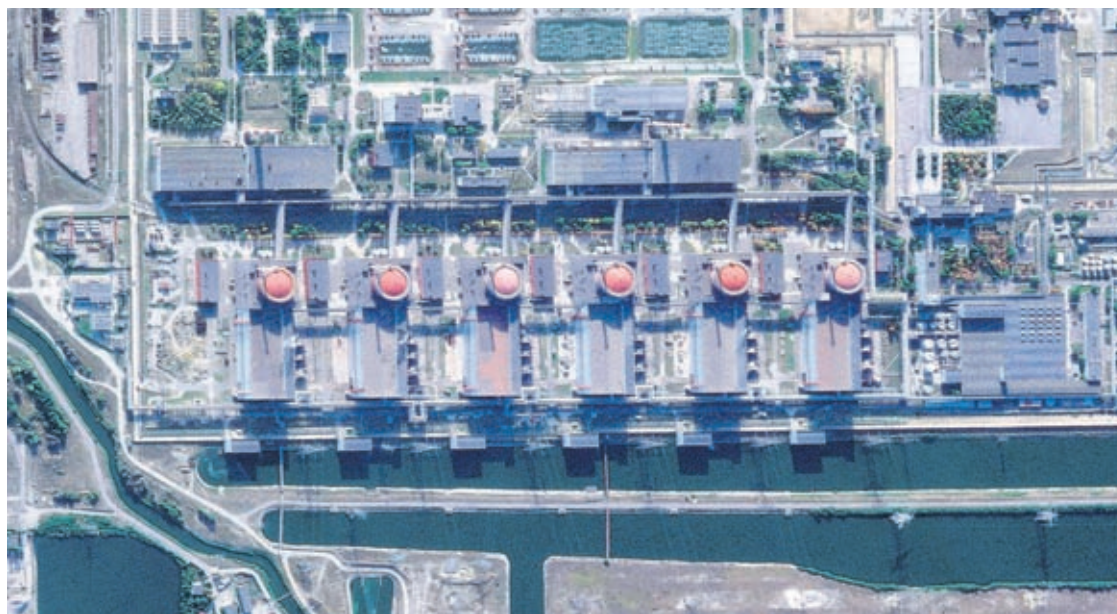
A gun found by police matched the bullet casings at the shooting scenes, McGinnis said.

Bishop Daryl Harris of Total Life Christian Ministries said he could "feel the panic" in his congregation when he informed people that an active shooter was at large Sunday. □

U.N. agency to inspect Ukraine nuclear plant in urgent mission

By PAUL BYRNE
Associated Press

KYIV (AP) — A U.N. nuclear watchdog team set off on an urgent mission Monday to safeguard the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia atomic power plant at the heart of fighting in Ukraine, a long-awaited trip the world hopes will help avoid a radioactive catastrophe. The stakes couldn't be higher for the group of International Atomic Energy Agency experts who will visit the plant in a country where the 1986 Chernobyl disaster sent radiation throughout the region, shocked the world and intensified a global push away from nuclear energy. "Without an exaggeration, this mission will be the hardest in the history of IAEA," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said. Underscoring the urgency, Ukraine and Russia again accused each other of shelling the wider region around the nuclear power plant, Europe's largest, which was briefly knocked offline last week. The dangers are so high that officials have begun handing out anti-radiation iodine tablets to nearby residents. To avoid a disaster, IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi has sought access for months to the Zaporizhzhia plant, which Russian forces have occupied and Ukrainian workers have operated since the early days of the six-month-old war.



This satellite image from Planet Labs PBC shows the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant occupied by Russian forces, in Ukraine on Sunday, Aug. 28, 2022.

"The day has come," Grossi tweeted Monday, adding that the Vienna-based IAEA's "Support and Assistance Mission ... is now on its way." Ukraine's Foreign Ministry spokesman said the team, which Grossi heads, is scheduled to arrive in Kyiv on Monday. In April, Grossi had headed an IAEA mission to Chernobyl, which Russian forces occupied earlier in the war. The IAEA said in a statement that its team will "undertake urgent safeguards activities," assess damage, determine the functionality of the plant's safety and security systems, and evaluate the control room staff's working conditions. Ukraine's nuclear energy agency, Energoatom, warned Monday of Russian attempts to cover up their

military use of the plant. "The occupiers, preparing for the arrival of the IAEA mission, increased pressure on the personnel ... to prevent them from disclosing evidence of the occupiers' crimes at the plant and its use as a military base," Energoatom said, adding that four plant workers were wounded in Russian shelling of the city where they live. Ukraine accused Russia of new rocket and artillery strikes at or near the plant, intensifying fears that the fighting could cause a massive radiation leak. So far, radiation levels at the facility, which has six reactors, have been reported to be normal. Ukraine has alleged that Russia is essentially holding the plant hostage, stor-

ing weapons there and launching attacks from around it, while Moscow accuses Ukraine of recklessly firing on the facility. World leaders have called on the Russians to demilitarize the plant. Satellite images provided by Maxar Technologies on Monday showed armored personnel carriers on a road near the reactors, damage to a building's roof also near the reactors, and brush fires burning nearby. Ukraine reported shelling in Nikopol, the city across the Dnieper River from the nuclear power plant, and said one person was killed and five others were wounded. In Enerhodar, just a few kilometers from the plant, the city's Ukrainian mayor, Dmytro Orlov, blamed Rus-

sian shelling for injuries to at least 10 residents. Kuleba, Ukraine's foreign minister, said in Stockholm that he expects the IAEA mission to produce "a clear statement of facts, of violation of all nuclear, of nuclear safety protocols." He added, "We know that Russia is putting not only Ukraine, but also the entire world at threat at the risk of nuclear accident." In Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia will ensure security of the IAEA mission and called on other countries to "raise pressure on the Ukrainian side to force it to stop threatening the European continent by shelling the territory of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant and surrounding areas." Over the weekend, Energoatom painted an ominous picture of the threats at the plant by issuing a map forecasting where radiation could spread. Elsewhere on the battlefield, the Ukraine military claimed it had breached Russia's first line of defense near Kherson just north of the Crimean Peninsula, an advance that would represent a strategic breakthrough — if confirmed. Kherson is the biggest Ukrainian city the Russians occupy, and reports about Ukrainian forces preparing for a counteroffensive there and elsewhere in the region have circulated for weeks. □

Dutch soldier shot in Indianapolis dies of his injuries

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — One of three Dutch soldiers wounded in a shooting outside a hotel in downtown Indianapolis over the weekend has died, the Dutch Defense Ministry said Monday. The commando died of his injuries "surrounded by family and colleagues," the ministry said in a statement. The soldier was one of three members of the Dutch Commando Corps who were shot and wounded

early Saturday after what Indianapolis police believe was a disturbance outside the hotel where they were staying, authorities said. The Marion County coroner's office in Indianapolis identified the victim as Simmie Poetsema, 26, but didn't immediately release any additional information. The two other wounded soldiers were conscious, the Defense Ministry said. The shooting occurred about 3:30 a.m. in Indianapolis' entertainment dis-

trict. The Defense Ministry said the three soldiers were from the Commando Corps and were in Indiana for training. Indianapolis police said they believe some sort of altercation between the three victims and another person or people led to the shooting. No arrests have been made. The Indiana National Guard said the soldiers had been training at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, a 1,000-acre (405-hectare) complex about 70 miles



An entrance to the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center is closed in Butlerville, Ind., Monday, Aug. 29, 2022.

Associated Press

(110 kilometers) southeast of the downtown Indianapolis shooting scene. The Guard said in a statement

that the center is used for training by the Department of Defense "as well as other allies." □

Iran president: No way back to nuclear deal if probe goes on

By **NASSER KARIMI** and **JON GAMBRELL**

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's president warned Monday that any roadmap to restore Tehran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers must see international inspectors end their probe on man-made uranium particles found at undeclared sites in the country. In a rare news conference marking his first year in office, President Ebrahim Raisi also issued threats against Israel and tried to sound upbeat as Iran's economy and rial currency has cratered under the weight of international sanctions. Despite the international attention on the deal as talks in Vienna hang in the balance, it took Raisi well over an hour before fully acknowledging the ongoing negotiations. Tehran and Washington have traded written responses in recent weeks on the finer points of the roadmap, which would see sanctions lifted against Iran in exchange for it restricting its rapidly advancing nuclear program. The International Atomic Energy Agency for years



In this photo released by the official website of the office of the Iranian Presidency, President Ebrahim Raisi sits during his press conference in Tehran, Iran, Monday, Aug. 29, 2022.

Associated Press

has sought for Iran to answer questions about man-made uranium particles found at undeclared sites. U.S. intelligence agencies, Western nations and the IAEA have said Iran ran an organized nuclear weapons program until 2003. Iran long has denied ever seeking nuclear weapons. As a member of the Nucle-

ar Nonproliferation Treaty, Iran is obligated to explain the radioactive traces and to provide assurances that they are not being used as part of a nuclear weapons program. Iran found itself criticized by the IAEA's Board of Governors in June over its failure to answer questions about the sites to the inspectors'

satisfaction.

Raisi mentioned the traces referring to its as a "safeguards" issue using the IAEA's language.

"Without settlement of safeguard issues, speaking about an agreement has no meaning," Raisi said. Under the 2015 nuclear deal, Tehran could enrich uranium to 3.67%, while

maintaining a stockpile of uranium of 300 kilograms (660 pounds) under constant scrutiny of IAEA surveillance cameras and inspectors. Then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the accord in 2018, setting the stage for years of rising tensions.

As of the last public IAEA count, Iran has a stockpile of some 3,800 kilograms (8,370 pounds) of enriched uranium. More worrying for nonproliferation experts, Iran now enriches uranium up to 60% purity a level it never reached before that is a short, technical step away from 90%. Those experts warn Iran has enough 60%-enriched uranium to reprocess into fuel for at least one nuclear bomb.

Amid the tensions, Israel is suspected in carrying out a series of attacks targeting Iranian nuclear sites, as well as a prominent scientist. On Monday, Raisi directly threatened Israel.

Raisi said if Israel decides to carry out its threats to destroy Iran's nuclear program, "they will see if anything from the Zionist regime will remain or not." □

Rights groups urge Yemen's Houthis to end Taiz blockade

By **SAMY MAGDY**
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Sixteen rights groups Monday urged Yemen's Houthi rebels to end their siege of the country's third-largest city, as the internationally recognized government said an overnight rebel attack killed at least 10 troops.

The groups, including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, said in a joint statement the Houthi blockade of Taiz has severely restricted freedom of movement and impeded the flow of essential goods, medicine and humanitarian aid to the city's residents.

"Houthi restrictions have forced civilians to use dangerous and poorly maintained mountain roads that are the only connection between Taiz city's besieged population and the

rest of the world," said Michael Page, deputy Middle East and North Africa director at Human Rights Watch. The Houthis have imposed a siege on the government-held Taiz, the capital of the province by the same name, since March

2016. The southwestern city is the junction of two crucial highways: an east-west road leading to the coastal city of Mocha on the Red Sea, and another north-south, to Sanaa via Dhamar and Ibb provinces. The joint statement said

Houthi-manned checkpoints prevented residents from bringing in essential items such as fruit, vegetables, cooking gas, dialysis treatment packets, and oxygen cylinders. They also "unlawfully confiscated some of these items," it said.

"The siege of Taiz has become nothing more than a card on the negotiating table," said Radhya Al-Mutwakel, chairperson of Mwatana for Human Rights.

Reopening the roads of Taiz and other provinces are part of the U.N.-brokered truce between the Houthis and the internationally recognized government, which initially took effect in early April and was extended twice, the second time until early October. Both sides reported violations of the cease-fire but the truce

has been the longest lull of fighting in Yemen's war, now in its eighth year.

Several rounds of U.N.-facilitated negotiations in the Jordanian capital of Amman failed to produce an agreement to ease the Houthi blockade of Taiz. In July, the rebels have rejected a U.N. proposal of a gradual reopening of Taiz roads, according to the U.N. mission in Yemen.

The internationally recognized government, meanwhile, said a Houthi attack overnight on the Dhabab area, east of Taiz city, killed at least 10 troops and wounded seven others, according to a statement carried by the official SABA news agency.

It said government troops repelled the Houthi offensive, killing at least 23 attacking rebels and wounding around 30 more. □



Yemenis carry relief supplies as they walk along a path after Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, besiege the city of Taiz, Yemen, Jan. 17, 2016.

Associated Press

Pakistan flooding deaths pass 1,000 in 'climate catastrophe'

By ZARAR KHAN
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Deaths from widespread flooding in Pakistan topped 1,000 since mid-June, officials said Sunday, as the country's climate minister called the deadly monsoon season "a serious climate catastrophe."

Flash flooding from the heavy rains has washed away villages and crops as soldiers and rescue workers evacuated stranded residents to the safety of relief camps and provided food to thousands of displaced Pakistanis.

Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority reported the death toll since the monsoon season began earlier than normal this year — in mid-June — reached 1,061 people after new fatalities were reported across different provinces.

Sherry Rehman, a Pakistani senator and the country's top climate official, said in a video posted on Twitter that Pakistan is experiencing a "serious climate catastrophe, one of the hardest in the decade."

"We are at the moment at the ground zero of the front line of extreme weather



Displaced people float belongings salvaged from flood-hit homes through a flooded area, on the outskirts of Peshawar, Pakistan, Sunday, Aug. 28, 2022.

Associated Press

events, in an unrelenting cascade of heatwaves, forest fires, flash floods, multiple glacial lake outbursts, flood events and now the monster monsoon of the decade is wreaking non-stop havoc throughout the country," she said. The on-camera statement was retweeted by the country's ambassador to the European Union.

Flooding from the Swat River overnight affected north-western Khyber Pakhtunkh-

wa province, where tens of thousands of people — especially in the Charsadda and Nowshera districts — have been evacuated from their homes to relief camps set up in government buildings. Many have also taken shelter on roadsides, said Kamran Bangash, a spokesperson for the provincial government. Bangash said some 180,000 people have been evacuated from Charsadda and 150,000 from Nowshera

district villages.

Khaista Rehman, 55, no relation to the climate minister, took shelter with his wife and three children on the side of the Islamabad-Peshawar highway after his home in Charsadda was submerged overnight.

"Thank God we are safe now on this road quite high from the flooded area," he said.

"Our crops are gone and our home is destroyed but I am grateful to Allah that

we are alive and I will restart life with my sons."

The unprecedented monsoon season has affected all four of the country's provinces. Nearly 300,000 homes have been destroyed, numerous roads rendered impassable and electricity outages have been widespread, affecting millions of people.

Pope Francis on Sunday said he wanted to assure his "closeness to the populations of Pakistan struck by flooding of disastrous proportions." Speaking during a pilgrimage to the Italian town of L'Aquila, which was hit by a deadly earthquake in 2009, Francis said he was praying "for the many victims, for the injured and the evacuated, and so that international solidarity will be prompt and generous."

Rehman told Turkish news outlet TRT World that by the time the rains recede, "we could well have one fourth or one third of Pakistan under water."

"This is something that is a global crisis and of course we will need better planning and sustainable development on the ground. ... We'll need to have climate resilient crops as well as structures," she said. □

2 high-rise towers in India demolished for violating laws

By ASHOK SHARMA

NEW DELHI (AP) — Two high-rise apartment towers in India were leveled to the ground in a controlled demolition on Sunday after the country's top court declared them illegal for violating building norms, officials said. They became India's tallest structures to be razed to the ground.

More than 1,500 families vacated their apartments in the area more than seven hours before the nearly 100-meter- (328 feet) tall towers crumbled inward by the impact of the implosion. The 32-story and 29-story towers, which were being constructed by a private builder in Noida city on the outskirts of New Delhi, were yet to be occupied.

"Largely, everything is OK," said Ritu Maheshwari, a

government administrator, after the demolition. "It happened as expected." The demolition was completed within seconds but followed a 12-year court battle between residents in the area and the builder, Supertech Limited.

The razing of the towers occurred after the Supreme Court found that the builder, in collusion with government officials, violated laws prohibiting construction within a certain distance from nearby buildings.

The Supreme Court said the construction of the two towers also was illegal because the builder did not receive mandatory consent from other apartment owners in the area.

Ahead of the demolition, the towers were surrounded by scaffolding, fences,

barricades and special covers to block dust from the approximately 88,000 tons of debris that would be generated, officials said. Disposing all of the debris will take three months. Residents are expected to return to the area Sunday evening after experts examine the impact of the demolition. Some apartments are located just nine meters (29.5 feet) away from the blast site, and the required safe distance is 20 meters (65.6 feet).

"It would come in the top five demolitions in the world in terms of height, volume, steel and tightness of the structure," said Utkarsh Mehta, a partner with Edifice Engineering, which brought down the building in collaboration with Jet Demolition from South Af-



Cloud of dust rises as twin high-rise apartment towers are razed to ground in Noida, outskirts of New Delhi, India, Sunday, Aug. 28, 2022.

Associated Press

rica at a cost of 180 million rupees (\$2.25 million). Mehta said 3,500 kilograms (7,716 pounds) of explosives were drilled into thousands of holes in the columns and shears of the towers. Experts used the waterfall method

of demolition in which one story collapses on the next. Joe Brikmann, director of Jet Demolition, said earlier he was confident no harm would come to the buildings adjacent to the demolished towers. □

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page!

Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from **Essie and Preson Crawford** from Euless, Texas, USA.

They wrote to us saying "Aruba to me is getting together with friends from all over the USA and sharing great memories on this beautiful island." □

Continuation of Baby Beach waterfront promenade project



with the Department of Infrastructure to establish a beach policy. Since this development is sustainable, they will plant many palm trees to create shaded spaces and limit the construction of palapas on the beach.

The terms of reference for this project are now available at the DOW for Awg. 350,00.

DOW will give specific details of the project on August 31, 2022, followed by the public tender on September 9, 2022, at the DOW office.

This project is possible thanks to the cooperation and teamwork of the Ministry of Tourism, ATA, DOW, and the DIP. This project is essential for the development of the entire Seroe Colorado area. □

Oranjestad – On August 25, 2022, the Minister of Tourism and Public Health, Mr. Dangui Oduber, CEO Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA), Mrs. Ronella Croes, and Director Public Works Department, Mr. Marlon Croes gave an update about the continuation of the Baby Beach Waterfront Promenade project.

f&B kiosks. The idea is for the kiosks to reflect the Aruban culture and sell Caribbean food. They will also restore the tennis courts to create more multifunctional sports facilities.

It will also include facilities to practice "beach sports" like beach tennis and beach volleyball.

A commission of tourism infrastructure projects led by the Minister of Tourism will work closely

This project is part of the Seroe Colorado master plan. This project will elevate the entire area near the beach while preserving nature in the area and creating an embellishment development in the area in a sustainable way.

The continuation of this project includes different aspects. The Baby Beach area will get a new parking lot and roundabout. Consecutively they will build public restrooms and two



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ATSA Members Inspired and Moved by Kaplan Mobray



Palm Beach.—August 26th, 2022. The members of the Aruba Timeshare Association, convened for a lunch-meeting at La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino with representatives of most of the island's Vacation Ownership properties, their financial controllers and a number of strategic partners in attendance.

ATSA President Luigi Heredia, Costa Linda Beach Resort, welcomed members and guests just before officially opening the meeting. He briskly went through a business agenda concerning the current issues challenging the industry such as the reportedly-upcoming Tax Reform, Tourist Levy and Import Duties increases, as well as various labor issues and the labor shortage, afflicting the industry. For the August meeting Heredia had something spe-

cial in mind for the forum. He was proud to introduce International Motivational Speaker Kaplan Mobray, Kaplan is "Recognized by Meetings and Conventions Magazine as one of the nation's top business speakers"

Two-years ago, Mobray, an acclaimed author and career consultant was a guest motivational-speaker at the ARDA conference, representing the vacation ownership and resort development industries, where he met Heredia, who enjoyed his presentation so much, he invited him for a series of talks at his resort, Costa Linda Beach Resort, and for a special appearance at the ATSA meeting. Mobray's message to the ATSA members was both entertaining and poignant. With the help of a saxophone, a green glittery ball, colorful slides,

fun music, and easy-to-grasp concepts, Mobray talked about the role of leadership in the creation of excellence. Excellence designed to maximize job satisfaction for employees as well as revenues for the business.

The topic of the day was how leaders set the standards, especially in challenging times. Together with his audience Mobray tried to define the changes we have undergone and the challenges we encountered during the pandemic years, sharing his unique theories and practical strategies to help set the bar higher as far as service, inject energy and purpose in work-associates and apply effective tools for success, in hospitality.

ATSA members left the room smiling, heads held high, knowing they have 'it' in them, the power to

do more, give more and receive more, determined to drive their organizations and themselves to greater successes.

At Costa Linda Beach Resort Mobray worked with smaller groups showcasing his dynamic personality and sharing his compelling life lessons. He encouraged employees to view themselves as an integral part of the business that builds, cures, directs, saves, creates and enable, multi-tasking and improving their personal brand and their leadership development.

Association members are: Amsterdam Manor; Aruba Beach Club Resort; Caribbean Palm Village Resort; Casa Del Mar Beach Resort; Costa Linda Beach Resort; Divi Dutch Village Beach Resort; Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort; Divi Village Golf and Beach Resort; Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino; La Cabana Beach Resort and Casino; La Quinta Beach Resort; Marriott Aruba Ocean Club; Marriot Aruba Surf Club; Paradise Beach Villas; and Playa Linda Beach Resort. □

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Create museum memories

ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these locations.

Museum of Industry Aruba

Museum of Industry in San Nicolas, better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum presents the history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments fund in 2003 so it could be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Fundacion Museo Arubano (FMA), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban culture sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 1 pm.



For more information check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in downtown Oranjestad has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum

is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the proper-

ty of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

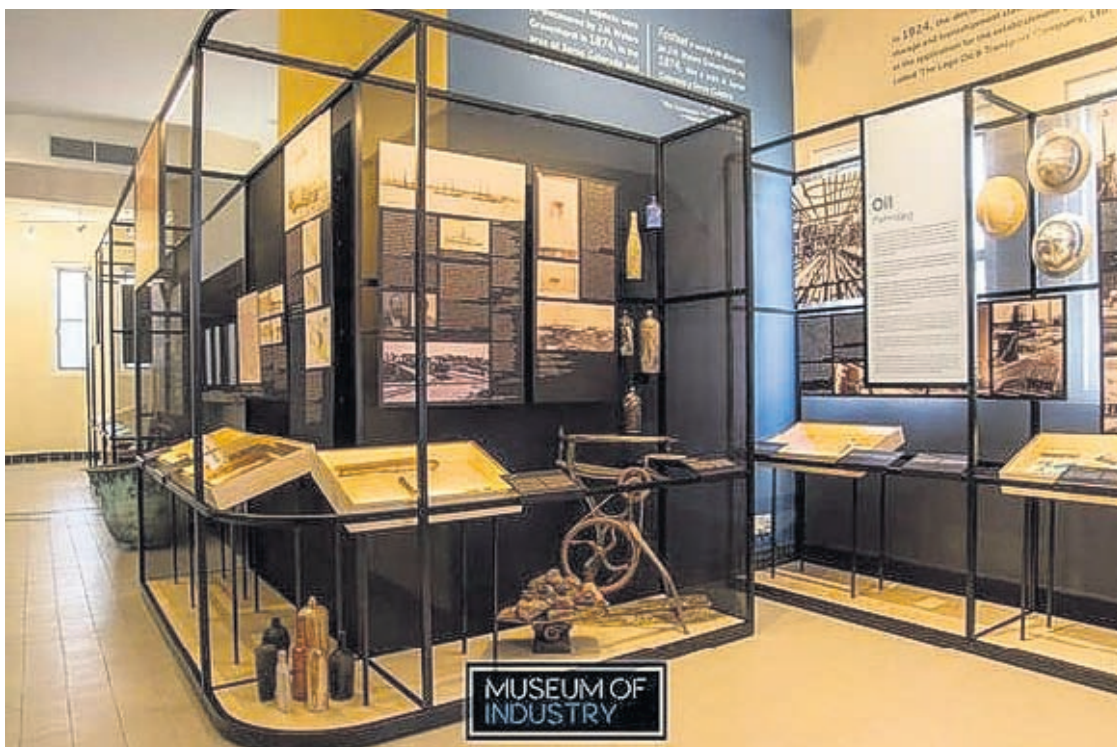
In 1997 the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004 a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006 restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the new to build exhibition space. In December 2007 the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys through ar-

chaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts an attractive public program including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm.

For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □



ARUBA CLEAN



IS MORE DUSHI

Liz Weston: Why is money so confusing?

By **LIZ WESTON** of NerdWallet

Managing money is an essential life skill, yet most U.S. adults would fail a financial literacy test. Consider the results of a survey meant to measure financial literacy, called the TIAA Institute-GFLEC Personal Finance Index. On average, U.S. adults correctly answered only 50% of its financial literacy questions in 2022.

In other words: If you find money confusing, you're far from alone. But the reasons you're baffled may have more to do with how our brains work than how money does. Understanding some of the common barriers, along with strategies to cope, could help you finally get a handle on your finances.

MONEY IS A NEW LANGUAGE

You wouldn't expect to carry on a fluent conversation in Madrid or Mexico City if you only knew a few words of Spanish. Similarly, personal finance is loaded with terms, jargon and concepts that take a while to learn.

"Entering the world of money is like entering a whole new culture and learning a new language," says Ed

Coombs, a certified financial planner and couples therapist in Charlotte, North Carolina.

You shouldn't feel stupid for not understanding everything instantly, and no one should make you feel that way. However, learning can be more difficult if we encounter judgmental, condescending or dogmatic people — which unfortunately describes many people who are fluent in personal finance lingo.

"Many money experts, professional or non-professional, can become varying degrees of authoritarian: 'Yes, I know what's best for you. This is what you should do,'" Coombs says.

People with a rigid approach to personal finance may not understand the culture and life experiences that shaped you. They may insist you funnel every possible dollar into paying off debt or saving for retirement, for instance, but you may feel it's important to tithe to your church or support your elderly parents.

Rather than dictating how you should spend your money, helpful advisors meet people where they are, says Rachael DeLeon, interim director of the Asso-

ciation for Financial Counseling & Planning Education, a nonprofit foundation that administers financial counseling credentials.

"It's figuring out: What are your values? What's important to you? And how do you make that work within your own financial situation?" DeLeon says.

MONEY IS EMOTIONAL

For many people, money evokes strong and often negative emotions. For example, if you struggle with managing your finances, you may be so embarrassed that you try to avoid talking or even thinking about money.

"That's what really stops people from making money progress," Coombs says.

"They feel ashamed that they don't know, and they feel like they should know." Painful early experiences often shape our view of money, says Coombs, author of "The Healthy Love & Money Way: How the Four Attachment Styles Impact Your Financial Well-Being." Listening to parents fight about money or suffering financial hardship can be traumatic, leaving us convinced that money is dangerous or shameful.

Coombs suggests discuss-



This undated file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com.

Associated Press

ing your feelings about money with supportive and compassionate people. That could include an empathetic financial advisor, a financial therapist or trusted, knowledgeable friends. "Action is predicated on feeling safe for many of us," Coombs says. "Until we feel safe and accepted, we're typically going to feel stuck and stalled."

MONEY IS COLLABORATIVE

Fear is another common emotion people experience around money: fear

of making a mistake, not having enough, or being scammed or misled.

"There are a lot of predators in this space, and knowing who to trust is hard," DeLeon says.

Educating yourself is crucial. You can learn about personal finance basics from trusted sources, such as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau or Jump-Start Coalition, which focuses on financial literacy for young people, DeLeon says. □

Walmart seeks to dismiss lawsuit by FTC over money transfers

By **ANNE D'INNOCENZIO**
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Walmart filed a motion on Monday to dismiss a lawsuit by the Federal Trade Commission in June that accused the nation's largest retailer of allowing its money transfer services to be used by scam artists, calling it an "egregious instance of agency overreach."

In its lawsuit, the FTC alleged that for years, Walmart failed to properly secure the money transfer services offered at its stores, stealing "hundreds of millions of dollars" from customers. The agency said Walmart didn't properly train its employees, failed to alert customers, and used procedures that allowed fraudsters to cash out at its stores. The FTC had asked the court

to order Walmart to return money to consumers and to impose civil penalties on the company.

In a 41-page document, filed in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois Eastern Division, Walmart laid out a number of what it called legally flawed claims, including that the agency lacked "constitutionally valid authority to sue for money or injunctive relief." It said that the FTC is trying to hold Walmart liable for the criminal actions of completely unrelated third-party fraudsters even as Walmart has embraced a number of steps to stop such scamming.

Walmart argued that the agency is trying to contort a regulation called the Telemarketing Sales Rule that



The Walmart logo is displayed on a store in Springfield, Ill., May 16, 2011.

Associated Press

was aimed to go after telemarketers and those who actively help them but that Walmart is neither. Walmart also took issue with the FTC's claim that Walmart allegedly engaged in an "unfair" act or practice, or any ongoing or imminent misconduct under Section

5 of the FTC Act.

"To be clear, Walmart is now—and always has been—dedicated to its customers and shares the FTC's goal of protecting customers from fraudsters," the Walmart filing said. "But this lawsuit is an egregious instance of agency over-

reach."

Walmart stores let shoppers to transfer money using three providers — MoneyGram, Ria Financial Services, and Western Union Co. Walmart, based in Bentonville, Arkansas, said it has developed and implemented a host of anti-fraud measures—including customer warnings and employee trainings. Based on data available to Walmart, out of nearly 200 million money-transfer transactions processed at its U.S. namesake stores between 2015 and 2020, less than 0.08% were reportedly the product of fraud, according to the Walmart filing. And it said that some of that reported fraud may not be fraud at all, making the actual fraud rate even smaller. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

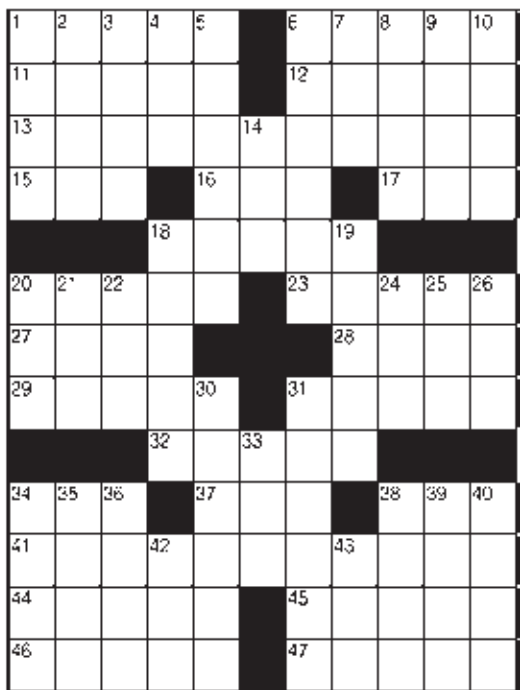
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1 Highways with funds
6 Rap sheet
name

DOWN
11 Concur
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13 Pinned-on-top hairstyle
15 Brewed beverage
16 Zodiac animal
17 Distress signal
18 Peony part
20 Grownup
23 Hospital worker
27 Artist's inspiration
28 Christmas song
29 Perfect
31 River craft
32 Become narrower at one end
34 Wine choice
37 By now
38 German article
41 Dickens classic
44 Film prize
45 Deceive
46 Prom group



Yesterday's answer

5 Hush-hush	18 Cloth fold	31 Stovetop item
6 2015	19 Moon-based	33 For each
7 Near the ground	20 Paris pal	34 Plant part
8 Sacred bird of Egypt	21 Failure	35 Different
9 To boot	22 Try out	36 Casino cubes
10 Hardens	24 Singer Orbison	38 Went out, as a fire
14 Boater or bowler	25 Cruise setting	39 Regarding
	26 Moose's kin	40 Put away
	30 Strata	42 Big truck
		43 Take the title



8-30

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-30

CRYPTOQUOTE

RC HRQTZ EUJ ONRTG CBQ

NBIO XGQRBTZ BC KRIG.

KFGJ YFS EUJ K R?

— BQPRNG YQROFK

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: SUMMERTIME IS ALWAYS THE BEST OF WHAT MIGHT BE.
— CHARLES BOWDEN

NASA scrubs launch of new moon rocket after engine problem



NASA's new moon rocket sits on Launch Pad 39-B minutes after the launch was scrubbed, Monday, Aug. 29, 2022, in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Associated Press

By MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP) — NASA called off the launch of its mighty new moon rocket on its debut flight with three test dummies aboard Monday after a last-minute cascade of problems culminating in unexplained trouble related to an engine.

The next launch attempt will not take place until Friday at the earliest and could be delayed until mid-September or later.

The mission will be the first flight in NASA's Artemis project, a quest to put astronauts back on the moon for the first time since the Apollo program ended 50 years ago.

As precious minutes ticked away Monday morning, NASA repeatedly stopped and started the fueling of the Space Launch System rocket because of a leak of highly explosive hydrogen, eventually succeeding in reducing the seepage. The leak happened in the same place that saw seepage during a dress rehearsal in the spring.

The fueling already was running nearly an hour late because of thunderstorms off Florida's Kennedy Space Center.

Then, NASA ran into new trouble when it was unable to properly chill one of the rocket's four main engines, officials said. Engineers struggled to pinpoint the source of the problem well after the launch postponement was announced.

Mission manager Mike

Sarafin said the fault did not appear to be with the engine itself but with the plumbing leading to it.

Complicating matters, as engineers were trying to troubleshoot that problem on the launch pad, yet another hydrogen leak developed, this one involving a vent valve higher up on the rocket, Sarafin said.

"This is a very complicated machine, a very complicated system, and all those things have to work, and you don't want to light the candle until it's ready to go," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson.

Referring to launch delays, he said: "It's just part of the space business and it's part of, particularly, a test flight." The rocket was set to lift off on a flight to propel a crew capsule into orbit around the moon. The six-week mission was scheduled to end with the capsule returning to Earth in a splashdown in the Pacific in October.

The 322-foot (98-meter) spaceship is the most powerful rocket ever built by NASA, out-muscling even the Saturn V that took the Apollo astronauts to the moon.

The dummies inside the Orion capsule were fitted with sensors to measure vibration, cosmic radiation and other conditions during the shakedown flight, meant to stress-test the spacecraft and push it to its limits in ways that would never be attempted if humans were aboard.

Asked about the possibility of another launch attempt

on Friday, Sarafin said, "We really need time to look at all the information, all the data. We're going to play all nine innings here."

Even though no one was on board, thousands of people jammed the coast to see the rocket soar. Vice President Kamala Harris and Apollo 10 astronaut Tom Stafford were among the VIPs who arrived.

Assuming the shakedown flight goes well, astronauts will climb aboard for the second Artemis mission and fly around the moon and back as soon as 2024. A two-person lunar landing could follow by the end of 2025.

The problems seen Monday were reminiscent of NASA's space shuttle era, when hydrogen fuel leaks disrupted countdowns and delayed a string of launches back in 1990.

Later in the morning, NASA also officials spotted what they feared was a crack or some other defect on the core stage — the big orange fuel tank with four main engines on it — but they later said it appeared to be just a buildup of frost in a crevice of the insulating foam.

Launch director Charlie Blackwell-Thompson and her team also had to deal with sluggish communication between the Orion capsule and launch control. The problem required what turned out to be a simple fix.

Even if there had been no technical snags, thunderstorms ultimately would have prevented a liftoff, NASA said.

Dark clouds and rain gathered over the launch site as soon as the countdown was halted, and thunder echoed across the coast. □

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Nations fail to reach deal on UN treaty to protect sea life

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Diplomats from around the world have failed to reach agreement on a United Nations treaty designed to protect marine life on the high seas, after a fifth round of talks ended in impasse. Negotiations at U.N. headquarters in New York were suspended early Saturday following two weeks of talks that environmentalists had hoped would close a gap in international marine protection measures. A proposed treaty would set rules for protecting biodiversity in two-thirds of the world's ocean areas that are outside of national jurisdictions.

Less than 1% of the high seas are protected without a new treaty, and "pockets of marine protection are not enough" for threatened species, said Maxine Burkett, the United States deputy assistant secretary of state who was involved in negotiations.

The global goal is to set aside 30% of ocean area as some kind of marine sanctuary. Ocean health also us key to combatting climate change because more than 90% of the excess heat from climate change is absorbed by the seas. Marine heat waves are getting longer and more frequent. □

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In 'Me Time,' Wahlberg and Hart make some trouble

By **LINDSEY BAHR**

There is a montage in "Me Time," the new Kevin Hart and Mark Wahlberg Netflix comedy, where Hart's character Sonny gets a day to himself for the first time in a long time. For years, he's devoted himself as a stay-at-home dad to his two kids (the very cute Che Tafari and Amentii Sledge). It's a job he takes very, very seriously, making Instagram influencer-worthy lunches and managing the home while his wife Maya (Regina Hall) is working. She's a successful architect, we're told, but we'll get to that later.

Sonny has a modest vision for his day off: He wants to golf. He wants to find an underground barbeque spot. And he wants to do a few other things in private. But nothing goes the way he hoped it would. Unfortunately, his underwhelming experience is similar to that of watching the film itself. "Me Time" somehow squanders a solid premise, a stacked cast and a seemingly unlimited budget. It didn't need to be anything great in this movie comedy drought we seem to be in. But considering who was involved, it really should be



This image released by Netflix shows Mark Wahlberg, from left, Regina Hall and Kevin Hart in "Me Time."

Associated Press

better than it is.

"Me Time" was written and directed by John Hamburg, who also did "I Love You, Man" and "Along Came Polly," and it is as fine a premise as any to pair a standard straight man with a wild and crazy friend from his youth. In this case that friend is Huck (Wahlberg). We meet them celebrating Huck's 29th birthday. His wild activity that year is BASE jumping, which provides a lively and promising start for the film that

then comes to a complete halt. "Me Time" cuts to 15 years later and spends far too much time establishing Sonny's home life instead of just getting him back with Huck as soon as possible.

As Huck, Wahlberg was clearly ready to go all out, including some nudity. He gets to be a high-rolling party fiend, which has its moments even though his character never really makes much sense. Hart, meanwhile, stays in his comfort zone as a slightly

frazzled family man. It's something he's very good at, but also something we've seen many times before. Still, it's nice to see both try a different comedy partner out instead of their go-to co-stars. And though the two actors seem to be having fun together, the film never really finds its lane, frenetically jumping from half-baked bit to bit, too many of which involve someone sticking something down their pants.

There's always a bit of

fantasy involved when it comes to the financial realities of characters in big Hollywood comedies. It is often used to signal a middle to upper middle-class life that is comfortable without being flashy. It is relatable and slightly aspirational and something that is just supposed to be background. Perhaps it's just a sign of the times, when so many are struggling and housing in big cities like Los Angeles is more expensive than ever, but in "Me Time," the wealth on display is downright distracting.

Huck's costly lifestyle and elaborate Kardashian-like parties turn into a bit of a plot point when a loan shark (Jimmy O. Yang) comes after him for \$47,000 — which seems like a lot but also not enough for someone who shells out thousands of dollars to have a personal raw bar in the desert and a tour bus wrapped with pictures of himself. And then there's the perplexing question of why Maya, who her billionaire client (Luis Gerardo Méndez) says is "the best architect in the world," lives in a cookie cutter Sherman Oaks home that looks like it's been lifted out of a 1990s sitcom. □

Coming to a theater near you: \$3 movie tickets for one day



Movie theaters reopen after COVID-19 closures on March 5, 2021, in New York.

Associated Press

By **JAKE COYLE**

NEW YORK (AP) — For one day, movie tickets will be just \$3 in the vast majority of American theaters as part of a newly launched "National Cinema Day" to lure

moviegoers during a quiet spell at the box office.

The Cinema Foundation, a non-profit arm of the National Association of Theater Owners, on Sunday announced that Sept. 3

will be a nationwide discount day in more than 3,000 theaters and on more than 30,000 screens. Major chains, including AMC and Regal Cinemas, are participating, as are all major film studios. In participating theaters, tickets will be no more than \$3 for every showing, in every format.

Labor Day weekend is traditionally one of the slowest weekends in theaters. This year, the August lull has been especially acute for exhibitors. Cineworld, which owns Regal Cinemas, cited the scant supply of major new releases in its recent plans to fill for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

But, if successful, National Cinema Day could flood theaters with moviegoers and potentially prompt them to return in the fall.

Before each showing, ticket buyers will be shown a sizzle reel of upcoming films from A24, Amazon Studios, Disney, Focus Features, Lionsgate, Neon, Paramount, Sony Pictures Classics, Sony, United Artists Releasing, Universal, and Warner Bros.

"After this summer's record-breaking return to cinemas, we wanted to do something to celebrate moviegoing," said Jackie Brenneman, Cinema Foundation president, in a statement. "We're doing it by offering a 'thank you' to the moviegoers that made this summer happen, and by offering an extra enticement for those who haven't made it back yet."

After more than two years of pandemic, movie theaters rebounded signifi-

cantly over the summer, seeing business return to nearly pre-pandemic levels. Films like "Top Gun: Maverick," "Minions: Rise of Gru," "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" and "Jurassic World Dominion" pushed the domestic summer box office to \$3.3 billion in ticket sales as of Aug. 21, according to data firm Comscore. That trails 2019 totals by about 20% but exhibitors have had about 30% fewer wide releases this year.

Organizers of National Cinema Day described the event as a trial that could become an annual fixture. While some other countries have experimented with a similar day of cheap movie tickets, the initiative is the first of its kind on such a large scale in the U.S. □

MLB players' association trying to unionize minor leaguers

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Major League Baseball Players Association is attempting to unionize minor leaguers, reversing decades of opposition.

The players' association said Monday it is circulating union authorization cards among players with minor league contracts to form a separate bargaining unit from the big leaguers.

While the average major league salary is above \$4 million, players with minor league contracts earn as little as \$400 a week during the six-month season.

"The working conditions facing these players have been nothing short of offensive," union head Tony Clark wrote in a letter Sunday to player agents. "Poverty wages, oppressive reserve rules, discipline without due process, ever-expanding offseason obligations, appropriation of intellectual property, sub-standard attention to player health and safety, and a chronic lack of respect for minor leaguers as a whole (to name just a few) — these cancers on our



Tampa Tarpons players pose in the dugout before a minor league baseball game against the Lakeland Flying Tigers, Friday, April 8, 2022, in Lakeland, Fla.

Associated Press

game exist because minor league players have never had a seat at the bargaining table. It's time for that to change."

The union's executive board unanimously approved the minor league initiative on Friday.

Clark was not available to respond to questions,

spokesman Chris Dahl said. Signed cards from 30% of the estimated 5,000 to 6,000 minor leaguers in the bargaining unit would allow the union to file a petition to the National Labor Relations Board asking for an union authorization election. MLB also could voluntarily recognize the

union representing the bargaining unit, a process that typically can occur if a majority of the unit signs cards. The staff of Advocates for Minor Leaguers, which formed two years ago, quit and will work for the MLBPA. The union gave the minor league group \$50,000 last November.

"This generation of minor league players has demonstrated an unprecedented ability to address workplace issues with a collective voice," Harry Marino, the executive director of Advocates for Minor Leaguers, said in a statement. "Joining with the most powerful union in professional sports assures that this voice is heard where it matters most — at the bargaining table."

Players with major league contracts, of which there are approximately 1,200, are represented by the union, which since the 1981 strike settlement also has negotiated terms for those on option to the minor leagues.

MLB raised weekly minimum salaries for minor leaguers in 2021 to \$400 at rookie and short-season levels, \$500 at Class A, \$600 at Double-A and \$700 at Triple-A. For players on option, the minimum is \$57,200 per season for a first big league contract and \$114,100 for later big league contracts.

In addition, MLB this year began requiring teams to provide housing for most minor leaguers. □

Titans releasing 3-time Pro Bowl punter Brett Kern

By **TERESA M. WALKER**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Tennessee Titans told three-time Pro Bowl punter Brett Kern on Monday that he will be released, going with an undrafted rookie to replace the man who had been their longest-tenured player.

The NFL deadline for teams to trim rosters to 53 is Tuesday afternoon. Titans general manager Jon Robinson said in a statement that Kern embodies everything they look for in a player for Tennessee.

"He has been at the top of his game for a long time in this league, has been an outstanding leader for us, and has been an excellent representation of the Titans in our community," Robinson said. "I'm blessed to have worked with him, and on behalf of the entire organization, we wish him all

the best moving forward." Kern spent 13 seasons with Tennessee after being picked up off waivers during the 2009 season. He joined former linebacker Derrick Morgan as the only players to play for each coach the Titans have had since the franchise moved to Tennessee in 1997.

The punter posted a message on social media, calling it an honor and privilege to play for the Titans the past 13 years.

"I will never forget watching two running backs rush for 2k, holding a game-winning kick in 0-degree weather, experiencing a playoff run that almost took us to the Super Bowl, going to 3 Pro Bowls with my family and teammate, jumping out of cardboard boxes in the hallway to scare the rookies ...," Kern wrote.

The 2019 All-Pro is just four

punts shy of becoming the NFL's 25th player with at least 1,000 punts. Since Kern signed with Denver out of Toledo in 2008, only Andy Lee (1,010) and the recently retired Sam Koch (1,004) have more punts in the NFL than Kern. Kern leaves the Titans third in franchise history with 197 games played, trailing only Hall of Famers Bruce Matthews and Elvin Bethea. He tied Brad Hopkins for the third-most seasons in franchise history.

Kern, 36, lost his job to rookie Ryan Stonehouse out of Colorado State. Kern said he knew in April that there would be a competition, with the rookie hitting the ball like he had seen only three or four other players do in his lifetime.

The veteran had been in the final year of his contract and has only a \$550,000



Tennessee Titans punter Brett Kern (6) is seen before their game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

"dead cap" hit. He is from Grand Island, New York, and could be headed back to his home state with the Buffalo Bills needing a punter. The Titans visit Buffalo on Sept. 19.

Last season, Kern ranked third in the NFL of punts

downed inside the 20 compared with touchbacks. He placed 59.5% of his punts (22 of 37) inside the 20 for the best results by any punter with at least 30 punts since 1991. Kern earned his third straight Pro Bowl nod in 2019. □

Mcllroy a 'Super Bowl' champ in a year without winning major

ATLANTA (AP) — Rory McIlroy walked toward the stage in the media room at East Lake, the FedEx Cup silver and shiny on the table, when he raised his arm and declared with a smile, "Super Bowl champ!"

That was more another dig at LIV Golf than sizing up his season.

The reference was banter he had exchanged with a reporter at the start of the FedEx Cup playoffs when asked if it was the hardest trophy to win. McIlroy would know better than anyone now that he's a three-time winner, who also twice failed to win as the No. 1 seed.

"Is the Super Bowl the hardest trophy to win in football?" he asked on Aug. 10. Few things are lost on McIlroy. The lead attorney for LIV Golf had argued in a court hearing the day before that the FedEx Cup was the "Super Bowl of golf" in his unsuccessful bid for three players from the Saudi-funded league to play the postseason.

McIlroy rarely resists trolling LIV Golf or Greg Norman.

There also was plenty of truth to his eventual answer — McIlroy is not big on "yes" or "no" — on the difficulty of winning the FedEx Cup.

"It's a weird one," he said, and no one would dispute that when it comes to any playoff system in golf. "You have to play consistently good golf over the course of a 30-week season and then you have to get hot at the end of it again, as well." And that's what he did. He wasn't as good as Scottie Scheffler or Cameron



Rory McIlroy reacts after making a birdie putt on the fifteenth green during the final round of the Tour Championship golf tournament at East Lake Golf Club Sunday, Aug. 28, 2022, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Smith, but he was good enough to have a chance at the end. He was a long shot at the start and going into the final round, but he played his best on Sunday — with a lot of help from Scheffler and a little from Sungjae Im — to rally from six shots down and claim the \$18 million prize.

Super Bowl champ? Sure. Before he laid his hands on the trophy, however, McIlroy was quick to point out that Scheffler was the MVP. "Firstly, there's only thing I want to say: I feel like Scottie deserves at least half of this today," McIlroy said at the trophy presentation. "He had an unbelievable season. I feel sort of bad that I pipped him to the post, but he's a hell of a competitor. He's an even better guy."

He ended his praise by keeping score, and that also was telling.

"I told him we're 1-all in Georgia," McIlroy said. "He got the Masters. I got this." McIlroy was runner-up to Scheffler at Augusta National, though he was never seriously in contention. And it's foolish to even ask which one McIlroy or any player would rather have. There are the majors. And there is the FedEx Cup. At this stage in his career, money is not as meaningful as winning. McIlroy spoke of the three "Calamity Jane" putters in his trophy case — the prize for winning the Tour Championship.

He is the only three-time winner of the FedEx Cup. Left unsaid is that those "very cool" trophies all were won since he last captured

a major. That remains the ultimate measure.

McIlroy was the only player to finish in the top 10 at all the majors this year. Of the three times he was in the mix, none crushed him more than the British Open at St. Andrews, where Smith simply outplayed him.

"I've been knocking on the door so much this year. St. Andrews was really hard for me," McIlroy said. "This softens the blow a little bit. It doesn't make it that much easier to get over, but it's great to end the season on a high note like this."

Perhaps that's why his best friend and caddie, Harry Diamond, said to McIlroy when they finished, "All the good golf you played this year, you deserve this."

There was a lot to unpack from McIlroy winning the

Tour Championship and the symbolism of the strongest voice in the fight against LIV Golf winning what the PGA Tour describes as its "ultimate prize." It was about more than money.

For McIlroy — and the entire FedEx Cup playoffs, for that matter — it was a reminder that while winning starts with having a chance, it can require a little more.

Will Zalatoris hit a tee shot in Memphis that nearly went out-of-bounds.

Patrick Cantlay hit a drive in Wilmington that landed in just the right spot to bounce over a bunker and into the fairway. McIlroy hit a chip in Atlanta that should have gone off the green on the 70th hole except the pin got in the way.

McIlroy knows what it's like to be the MVP without winning the Super Bowl. He won two majors in 2014 and lost to Billy Horschel on the final day at East Lake in 2014. He won two playoff events in 2012 and lost the FedEx Cup to Brandt Snedeker.

"The more times you just put yourself in the position, the law of averages suggests that you're going to get it done at some point," McIlroy said. "And that's sort of what I've done in this tournament."

Tiger Woods once said it can't be considered a great year without a major. That's still true. It was a great year for Scheffler.

All things considered — three wins, a third FedEx Cup and his role in helping to reshape the PGA Tour — McIlroy's year wasn't too far behind. □

Dejah Mulipola wins Athletes Unlimited softball championship



Arizona baserunner Dejah Mulipola (8) rounds the bases after hitting a home run against Arkansas during an NCAA college softball game in Fayetteville, Ark., Friday, May 28, 2021.

Associated Press

By CLIFF BRUNT

Dejah Mulipola is the 2022 Athletes Unlimited softball champion.

The former University of Arizona star scored 1,782 points to claim the individual title in a 60-player field. The winner was determined during a 30-game season at Parkway Bank Sports Complex in Rosemont, Illinois.

Mulipola, a silver medalist

for Team USA at the Tokyo Olympics, considers it one of her greatest accomplishments as a softball player.

"I definitely say top three, just because the women in this league are the best of the best," the California native said. "It's a challenging league."

It was the closest race in three years of Athletes Unlimited softball. The top 10

players were separated by just 288 points heading into the final weekend.

Mulipola fell behind Alysia Denham in the standings heading into the final game but responded by going 2-for-2 with a triple, a home run and two walks.

"I was like, you know, I could either pout about it or I could be optimistic and be like, 'I have no pressure on my back now.' □